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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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1. Since 15 October 1953, a military regime has been in force along the Black Sea coast. The entire area, up to 15 kilometers inland, and including the Bulgarian military units, the naval units, antiaircraft and coastal defense, have passed under the command of the Soviet Army of the Balkans, more specifically that based in Bulgaria. Vice Admiral Branimir Ormanov is commander of the zone and the headquarters commandant is Navy Captain Trayko Ivanov. Headquarters are located in Varna, in the building which houses the Bulgarian Naval Fleet Command.
2. At the same time, the construction of a railway line of strategic importance has been accelerated. This line travels along the Black Sea, and from Burgas to Elkhovo and Kardzhali, along the Turkish frontier. The construction of this line is being carried out from both terminal points and 2,000 workers and several brigades of men mobilized from the local population, are working night and day.
3. During September 1953, units of 2 Army, together with units based along the Black Sea coast carried out maneuvers against the coastal areas. These maneuvers were aimed at defending Bulgaria against an eventual Turkish offensive from land and from sea, and were carried out chiefly in the Pomorie and Tsarevo port areas.
4. An increase in construction of defenses on the islet of Sveti Iliya has also been noted. Two new bunkers were observed in the northern part of the island and six concrete emplacements for long-range cannons were also observed. A "marine" company, an infantry company, and an engineers company are based on this island.
5. The submarine base located in the vicinity of the city of Pomorie is near completion. It is to be used as an auxiliary base for Soviet submarines operating in the Black Sea. Near this base there are fuel tanks, a workshop, a pen for four submarines, a 6-piece antiaircraft battery, and other services such as a hospital, officers' quarters, etc. The torpedo depot is located behind the submarine pen and is hidden from the coast. A munitions workshop is also in this area. The personnel based here consists of 200 seamen and 26 officers and technicians. Two German-built sub-chasers were observed moored near the quay.

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